AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete paragraph [0001] of the application as published in Publication No. 2004/0216193 and replace with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/744,614, filed January 26, 2001 (which ~~claims priority to~~ is the National Stage of International Application No. PCT/US00/29905, filed October 30, 2000, which itself claims the benefit of ~~priority to~~ U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/162,626, filed on October 29, 1999), and of co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/576,623, filed May 23, 2000, now issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,750,376, (which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 09/018,875, filed February 5, 1998, now abandoned, which itself claims the benefit of ~~priority to~~ U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/037,211, filed February 5, 1997), the disclosures of each of which ~~all~~ are expressly incorporated herein by reference thereto.

Please delete paragraph [0005] of the application as published in Publication No. 2004/0216193 and replace with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] Technologies that induce, stabilize, and control the expression of apomixis in crops have the potential of revolutionizing plant breeding and becoming essential to competitive agribusiness worldwide. With such systems, breeders will "clone" highly desirable plants (exhibiting hybrid vigor, transgenic traits, and the like) through the plant's own seed--generation after generation. Yield increases resulting from the fixation of hybrid vigor of inbred crops such as wheat (15%) and rice (35%) will be economically exploited on a large scale for the first time, which will make apomixis of immense commercial value worldwide. Because cloning occurs through seed, apomixis may become the most cost effective plant mechanism for transferring biotechnological and productivity advances to marginal farmland in the developed world and to resource poor farmers in developing nations. Apomixis may become among the most valuable genetic tools for plant breeders in the 21st century. At a recent conference on apomixis, the following conclusion was reached: "The prospect of introducing apomixis into sexual crops presents opportunities so revolutionary as to justify a sustained international scientific effort. If apomixis were generated with a sufficiently high degree of flexibility, the impact on agriculture could be profound in nature and extremely broad in scope." The Bellagio Apomixis Conference, Why is Apomixis Important to Agriculture (1998) ~~(http://billie.harvard.edu/apomixis/apotech.html)~~.